Saltator striatipectus peruvianus Cory. Six adults, both sexes, Huancabamba, August.

Cory's seven specimens, upon which he based this subspecies were from Hda. Limon, 10 miles west of Balsas, northern Peru, and agree almost perfectly with ours. Possibly ours are not quite so dark.

NOTES ON NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS.

VI.

BY HARRY C. OBERHOLSER.

THE present paper continues the writer's notes on North American birds.[1] In the following pages there are discussed six species and subspecies, belonging to the families *Alcedinidæ, Tytonidæ, Certhiidæ, Paridæ, Mniotiltidæ,* and *Fringillidæ.*

Streptoceryle alcyon caurina (Grinnell).

The western form of *Streptoceryle alcyon* was originally described by Dr. Joseph Grinnell,[2] from a specimen taken on Montague Island, Prince William Sound, Alaska. Its geographic distribution has been considered to extend in western North America from Alaska to western Mexico. Recently, however, its validity as a race has been questioned,[3] because of the occurrence in British Columbia of specimens similar to eastern birds. A good series of eastern examples, however, compared with Pacific Coast birds, shows that *Streptoceryle alcyon caurina* is a readily recognizable race. That specimens occur difficult to distinguish does not of course invalidate a subspecies which is based, and properly so, on

[1] For previous papers in this series, *cf.* 'The Auk,' XXXIV, April, 1917, pp. 191–196; XXXIV, July, 1917, pp. 321–329; XXXIV, October, 1917, pp. 465–470; XXXV, January, 1918, pp. 62–65; and XXXV, April, 1918, pp. 185–187.

[2] Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., V, No. 12, March 5, 1910, p. 388, fig. 4.

[3] Taverner, Summary Rep. Geol. Surv. Dept. Mines Canada, for 1916 (1917), p. 361.

average characters. It seems worth while also to call attention to the point that the larger general size of *Streptoceryle alcyon caurina* is a better and more reliable character for the identification of specimens than the long wing tip, since the latter is liable to be affected by the makeup of the skin.

Tyto pratincola (Bonaparte).

Mr. Ridgway has recently [1] placed the American Barn Owl (*Tyto pratincola*) as a subspecies of the South American *Tyto perlata*. Comparison, however, of a series of specimens of *Tyto pratincola* with examples of the European *Tyto alba alba* and *Tyto alba guttata* indicates that the North American bird is only subspecifically related to the races of Europe. It differs from *Tyto alba alba* in its larger size, darker coloration above, and usually more ochraceous suffusion below. The difference in coloration, however, is not strongly marked, and is at once seen to be but average; and *Tyto pratincola* is in this respect even more like *Tyto alba guttata* of middle Europe than like *Tyto alba alba* of the Mediterranean region. The larger size of the American bird is really the only striking character which separates it from the European forms; but even this, on comparison with a sufficient number of specimens, proves to be bridged over by individual variation. In fact, many specimens of South American races which certainly but subspecifically differ from *Tyto pratincola* are of practically the same size as European birds. There seems, therefore, no alternative but to consider the American Barn Owl a subspecies of the typical European bird, and its name will therefore become *Tyto alba pratincola*.

Certhia familiaris americana Bonaparte.

In a comparatively recent publication,[2] Dr. C. E. Hellmayr has treated *Certhia familiaris americana* and all the other American forms of this genus as subspecies of *Certhia brachydactyla* Brehm.

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[1] Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 50, part VI, 1914, pp. 601, 602, 605.
[2] Wytsman's Genera Avium, XV, 1911, p. 8.

This latter species differs from *Certhia familiaris* Linnæus principally in its shorter, more curved hind claw and its longer bill. The color differences assigned by Dr. Hellmayr for these two species do not always correlate with the structural characters. There seems to be some mistake in this allocation of the American forms, since *Certhia familiaris americana* is very closely allied to *Certhia familiaris familiaris* of Europe, and, judging by the shape and size of its hind claw and bill, certainly conspecific. All the American forms are well known to be certainly but subspecifically different from *Certhia familiaris americana*, and, therefore, all should be regarded, as they formerly have been, subspecies of *Certhia familiaris familiaris*.

Penthestes carolinensis (Audubon).

In a revision of the Paridæ, published a few years ago,[1] Dr. C. E. Hellmayr relegated *Penthestes carolinensis* (Audubon) to subspecific rank under *Penthestes atricapillus* (Linnæus). A close study of these birds in life and in the cabinet indicates that this view of their relationship does not best represent the facts; for, while the characters of plumage and of size separating them are relatively slight, these are likewise relatively constant, and it is possible to identify all normal specimens. Their songs, or rather love notes, are radically different in quality and form and can never be mistaken. Furthermore, wherever their breeding ranges meet or overlap, as they do in places in the eastern United States, particularly in the southern Allegheny Mountains, both birds remain just as distinct in all respects as elsewhere. Hence they should evidently be considered distinct species.

Dendroica coronata hooveri McGregor.

This race of the Myrtle Warbler was originally described by Mr. R. C. McGregor[2] from a specimen taken at Palo Alto, California. Most subsequent authors, however, with the exception of Dr.

[1] Wytsman's Genera Avium, XVIII, 1911, p. 34.
[2] Bull. Cooper Orn. Club, I, No. 2, March, 1899, p. 32.

Joseph Grinnell and a few western ornithologists, have refused it recognition, and Mr. J. H. Riley has recently [1] expressed serious doubts regarding its validity. Its failure of recognition has probably been due chiefly to the statement of the original describer, that it differs from *Dendroica coronata coronata* only in somewhat greater size. Examination of a large series now shows that *Dendroica coronata hooveri* is a recognizable race and that it differs from *Dendroica coronata coronata* not only in its larger size but in the coloration of male, female, and even young. The male has less black on the lower parts, that on the jugulum and on the sides of the breast being more broken by white; and the yellow of rump averages paler. The female has the upper parts more grayish (less rufescent brownish) and also the yellow of the rump usually somewhat lighter. Juvenal birds are usually darker, duller, less rufescent brown above than examples of *Dendroica coronata coronata* in the same stage.

The geographic distribution of *Dendroica coronata hooveri* is as follows: Western North America. Breeds north to northwestern Mackenzie, northern Yukon, and north central Alaska; west to western Alaska; south to southern Alaska, central British Columbia, and central Alberta; and east to eastern Alberta and central Mackenzie. Winters north at least to California, New Mexico, and Texas; south to the state of Vera Cruz in Mexico, and southern Lower California.

Acanthis hornemanni exilipes (Coues).

Redpolls are among the most difficult of American Fringillidæ. The relationships of the forms of the genus *Acanthis* were for many years imperfectly understood. Recently, also, the subspecific assignment of *Acanthis hornemanni exilipes* has been questioned,[2] but on the basis of winter specimens, which are always more or less unsatisfactory for the delimitation of geographic races. It is claimed by this author [3] that *Acanthis hornemanni exilipes* is a

[1] Canadian Alpine Journal, Special Number, 1912 [February 17, 1913], pp. 70–71.
[2] Brooks, 'The Auk,' XXXIV, No. 4, January, 1917, p. 44.
[3] Brooks, loc. cit.

subspecies of *Acanthis linaria,* because it intergrades perfectly with that species, but not with *Acanthis hornemanni.* While of course in some plumages certain specimens are difficult to distinguish, the same is true of many another distinct species. Present comparisons, based on specimens in breeding plumage, show that *Acanthis hornemanni exilipes* and *Acanthis linaria linaria* are usually separable by the white rump and the slight streaks on the under tail-coverts of the former, which are the characters that ally *Acanthis hornemanni exilipes* to *Acanthis hornemanni hornemanni;* in fact, in ordinary condition *Acanthis hornemanni exilipes* is a miniature of *Acanthis hornemanni hornemanni,* though it averages somewhat darker. A further and serious obstacle to considering *Acanthis hornemanni exilipes* a subspecies of *Acanthis linaria linaria* is that both breed on the same ground over a wide geographic area extending from Ungava to southern Keewatin and Alaska, and that they retain their distinctive characters everywhere, although apparently sometimes hybridizing. It is evident, therefore, that whatever the relationship of *Acanthis hornemanni exilipes* to *Acanthis hornemanni hornemanni,* the former cannot by any means be a subspecies of *Acanthis linaria.*

THE SUBSPECIES OF *LARUS HYPERBOREUS* GUNNERUS.

BY HARRY C. OBERHOLSER.

No subspecies of *Larus hyperboreus* have hitherto been formally recognized. Recent investigation, however, has shown that the bird of Alaska, described by Mr. Ridgway as *Larus barrovianus,* is a readily separable race. Its relationships with *Larus hyperboreus hyperboreus* are set forth below.

For the purpose of the present study the writer has been privileged to examined 240 specimens, including the type of *Larus barrovianus,* which number represents the entire material of this